

Public Testimony Before the Joint Appropriations Committee
Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Senator Harp and Representative Geragosian, Co-Chairs

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify to you and the Committee members about the National Theater of the Deaf (NTD). I am Mike Finneran, President of the California Association of the Deaf.

Like every state, the State of Connecticut is facing a budget crisis in this present state of economy. The State sees a need to reduce the level of expenditures as reflected in the Governor's Deficit Mitigation Plan for FY 2011.

Dr. Corson has reiterated his points the following:

1. First deaf professional theatre company
2. 42 beautiful years of audio and visual theatre
3. Community collaboration
4. Seriously curtail the NTD's main operation

California Association of the Deaf is the organization serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing with over 100 members. This organization supports the NTD for its continuance and the state of Connecticut's support for this theatre group is so essential.

We do have a national brand theatre group that serves locally that we have been enjoying for years and want to continue for many more years to come.

Thanks so much for your time listening our testimonies.